

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A data-providing apparatus attached to a plurality of user apparatuses over a network, said data-providing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit configured to receive data transmitted from the plurality of said user apparatus;

a user contents control unit configured to control recording of the data received by the receiving unit into a recording area corresponding to each user apparatus with a user ID indicating each user who offers the data to be shared and a shared data flag set by the user in a database;

a shared contents control unit configured to control the recorded contents based on the shared data flag; and

a data-supplying unit configured to supply data set to be shared to the plurality of user ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses in response to a demand made by the plurality of user ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses,

wherein the shared data flag indicates whether the user contents is set to be shared or not.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The data-providing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising thumbnail-generating means for generating a thumbnail corresponding to the data received by the receiving unit, and thumbnail-transmitting means for transmitting the thumbnail to a second data-processing apparatus.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The data-providing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said shared contents control unit further determines whether the data should be paid for its use, when the data is supplied to a second data-processing apparatus.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The data-providing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said shared contents control unit further determines a fee for the data when the data is supplied to a second data-processing apparatus.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The data-providing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said fee is an amount that the data-processing apparatus needs to pay to the second data-processing apparatus when the data is supplied to the second data-processing apparatus.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A data-providing method, said data-providing method comprising the steps of:

receiving data transmitted from a plurality of user apparatus;

controlling a recording of the data received in the receiving step into a recording area corresponding to each of the plurality of user apparatuses with a user ID indicating each user who offers the data to be shared and a shared data flag set by the user in a database;

controlling recorded contents based on the shared data flag; and

supplying a data set to be shared to said plurality of user apparatus apparatuses in response to a demand by said plurality of user apparatus apparatuses,

wherein the recorded contents are controlled by using the shared data flag that indicates whether the user contents is set to be shared or not.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A program-storing device for use with a computer, which stores a computer-readable program, the program performs the steps of

receiving data transmitted from a plurality of user apparatus;

controlling a recording of the data received in the receiving step into a recording area corresponding to each of the plurality of user apparatuses with a user ID indicating each user who offers the data to be shared and a shared data flag set by the user in a database;

controlling recorded contents based on the shared data flag; and

supplying a data set to be shared to said plurality of user apparatus apparatuses in response to a demand by said plurality of user apparatus apparatuses,

wherein the recorded contents are controlled by using the shared data flag that indicates whether the user contents is set to be shared or not.